USA aid to fight AIDS in India

1831. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has been aiding India to fight AIDS;

(b) if so, the details of the aid received, so far, from USA;

(c) the details of expenditure out of USA aid towards control of AIDS in India;

(d) whether funds are utilized in subsidizing AIDS related costly medicines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of schemes under which subsidized AIDS medicines are given to AIDS patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been supporting two Projects *viz.* AIDS prevention and control Project (APAC) in Tamil Nadu and AVERT Project in Maharashtra since 1995 and 2001 respectively.

(b) and (c) the USAID is reimbursing the amount spent by GOI from budget. So far GOI has received re-imbursement of Rs. 25.63 crores in respect of APAC project in Tamil Nadu for the period from 1995—2002 and Rs. 1.29 crores for AVERT Project in Maharashtra for the period from 2001 to 2002.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Government is providing free drugs for the treatment of opportunistic infections for HIV/AIDS patients in Public Sector hospitals. antiretroviral drugs (Nevirapine) is being provided to HIV positive pregnant women for prevention of Mother to Child Transmission in high prevalence States.

For post exposure prophylxis among health workers in Public Sector hospitals, antiretroviral drugs are being supplied through State AIDS Control Societies. Government has also waived excise duty on antiretroviral drugs to make them affordable to HIV/AIDS patients.

Health Melas

1832. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted Health Melas in different parts of the country;

(b) the details of such Health Melas conducted and the years when they were conducted;

(c) whether it is a fact that they have been discontinued; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to reach a large number of people without basic health care?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 Government of India has supported organization of Health Melas at 33 places, as per details given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Primary Health services are accessible to nearly 85% people in rural areas through a network of 1,37,311 sub-centres, 22,842 PHCs and 3,043 CHCs, of which 21,429 sub-centres, 3540 PHCs and 588 CHCs are in Tribal areas. Under the Govt. of India norms, each Sub-Centre, PHC and CHC caters to a population of 5,000, 30,000 & 1,00,000 respectively in general areas and 3,000, 20,000 & 80,000 population respectively in hilly and desert areas. Government seeks to further increase access to quality health care, especially in underserved areas, through a number of initiatives under the RCH programme such as organizing RCH Camps at regular intervals at PHCs; strengthening immunization services in border districts through Outreach Scheme; provision of referral transport to pregnant women of indigent families; training dais; promoting establishment